

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
REQUEST FOR FILING APPLICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b)  
WITHOUT FILING FEE AND/OR WITHOUT EXECUTED INVENTOR'S DECLARATION

**Mail Stop Patent Application**

Atty. Dkt. 2551-141

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450  
Sir:

Date: April 13, 2004

2390 U.S. PTO  
10/822871

This is a request for filing a new PATENT APPLICATION under Rule 53(b) entitled:

**SYNTHETIC ANTIGENS FOR THE DETECTION OF ANTIBODIES TO HEPATITIS C VIRUS**

without a filing fee and/or without an executed inventor's oath/declaration.

This application is made by the below identified inventor(s). Attached hereto are the following papers:

34 pages of specification and claims (including 25 numbered claims), and

8 sheets of accompanying drawing/s for Figures 1 - 2.

☒ Priority is hereby claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119 based on the following foreign applications:

Application Number	Country	Day/Month/Year Filed
PCT/EP91/02409	PCT	13/December/1991
90124241.2	Europe	14/December/1990

, respectively, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application..

☐ Certified copy(ies) of foreign application(s) is/are attached.

☒ Certified copy(ies) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ in prior application no. PCT/EP91/02409 filed 13/December/1991

☒ This application is a ☐ continuation/☒ division/☐ continuation-in-part of Application No. 10/044,995, filed January 15, 2002 (pending), which is a divisional of Application No. 09/941,611, filed August 30, 2001 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,576,417), which in turn is a divisional of Application No. 09/275,265, filed March 23, 1999 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,287,761), which in turn is a continuation of Application No. 08/391,671, filed February 21, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,922,532), which is a continuation of Application No. 07/920,286, filed October 14, 1992, abandoned, which is a 371 of PCT/EP91/02409, filed December 31, 1991, which claims benefit of EP 90124241, filed December 14, 1990. Issued U.S. Patent Nos. 5,910,404 and 6,007,982 are similarly continuation applications of Application No. 08/391,671, filed February 21, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,922,532), which is a continuation of Application No. 07/920,286, filed October 14, 1992, abandoned, which is a 371 of PCT/EP91/02409, filed December 13, 1991, which claims benefit of EP 90124241, filed December 14, 1990, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference in this application.

☒ The prior application is assigned to INNOGENETICS, S.A., Ghent, Belgium.

☒ It is hereby requested that the Examiner consider the art cited in the above parent application(s) by applicant and/or the Examiner for the reasons stated therein. A listing of that art is attached, but pursuant to Rule 98(d) copies are not required.

☒ Please enter the attached preliminary amendment prior to calculation of filing fee:

☒ Also attached: ☒ Information Disclosure Statement; ☐ Non-Publication Request; ☐ Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission; ☐ Statement deleting Inventor(s) named in prior application; ☒ Other: **8 sheets formal drawings; Request & Sequence Listing filed 1/15/2002 in parent application**

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☒ See attached sheet(s) for additional inventor(s) information!!

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NOTE: FOR ADDITIONAL INVENTORS, check box ☐ and attach sheet with same information and signature and date for each.